

Senate District D

Ralph C. Seekins, Republican



DATE OF BIRTH: April 1, 1945
PLACE OF BIRTH: Duluth, Minnesota
NAME OF SPOUSE: Connie Seekins
(September 6, 1969)
CHILDREN: Aaron, Ben, Andrea, Beth
RESIDENCE ADDRESS: 4611 Maresh Avenue
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709
MAILING ADDRESS: 1625 Old Steese Highway
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701
E-MAIL: ralph@seekins.com
OCCUPATION: Automobile dealer
LENGTH OF RESIDENCY IN ALASKA: 28 years
EDUCATION: Cody, Wyoming; Hardin, Montana; Wheaton College (Wheaton, Illinois).
POLITICAL AND GOVERNMENT POSITIONS: Chair, Alaska Permanent Fund Corporation; City of Fairbanks Transportation Commission; member, Governor's North Slope Natural Gas Economic Advisory Committee; Fairbanks North Star Borough Community Research Center; City of Fairbanks Permanent Fund Advisory Committee.

BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS:

President, Seekins Ford-Lincoln-Mercury; Alaska Automobile Dealer Association; Alaska Wildlife Conservation Association; chair, 2002 National Ford Dealer Council; Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce; commissioner, Alaska Baseball League; treasurer, Alaska State Chamber of Commerce.

SERVICE ORGANIZATION(S) MEMBERSHIP:

Common Sense for Alaska, First Assembly of God Church, NRA, Fairbanks Rotary Club, American Quarter Horse Association, Alaska State Quarter Horse Association.

SPECIAL INTERESTS:

Family, outdoor activities, wildlife studies, art, flying, youth sports.

OTHER:

UAF Business Leader of the Year, 1990; News-Miner Community Service Award Winner, 1989; fundraising co-chair, Tanana Valley United Way, 1996; founding incorporator, Alaskans First; finisher, 1989 Yukon Quest.

STATEMENT:

Alaskans have good reasons for optimism. A prosperous future lies just over the horizon. Prosperity doesn't just happen. It's the result of right decision making and hard work by courageous leaders and Alaska citizens. Recent reports of our struggling economy and education system are good cause for concern. We can't just produce more graduates than there are jobs available. And our schools must provide excellence rather than excuses.

Many have recently engaged in discussions about income taxes or raiding the permanent fund dividend program as if somehow taking your money away will be good for you. That's just nonsense. First, Alaska families are having a hard enough time and their money should stay at home rather than being sent to or kept in Juneau. Second, our economy is struggling as it is and an income tax will slow it down even more. My Democrat opponent was the architect of last session's income tax bill that was thankfully rejected by the Republicans in the State Senate. That tax was directed right at working middle class Alaskan families. If it had passed, you would be deciding right now how you were going to get by on less money. I believe the State should raise your standard of living rather than raise your taxes. If and when we need more money to pay for state government, we need to look someplace other than your family checkbook to do it.

I'll provide leadership - not taxes. I'll work for opportunity - not increased government spending.

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